

Dear Colleagues,

We currently find ourselves in unprecedented and challenging times, where we have had to adapt to new ways of doing things in a very short time frame.

This ability to adapt to new situations is a skill that we strive to build in our students, and a skill that is very much part of the 21st century skill set. Talking with my classes about this situation that we are now in, I have come to realise that they have been thrust into a situation which they have very little control over. It can be overwhelming and frightening for young people in this situation, especially given the complexity of the COVID-19 virus and all of the unknowns, and yet we are aware of amazing stories of young people who have risen to the challenge of finding ways to help the world through this crisis.

It was with this in mind that I decided to run the COVID-19 Design Challenge, to provide an opportunity for students to contribute to the world knowledge base that will help get us through this crisis.

The COVID-19 Design Challenge is open to all students in Victoria. Exemplary entries will be judged by a panel, and these selected entries will be displayed at the Geelong Tech School and on the DATTA Victoria website. Sponsors for awards and prizes are currently being sought from industry partners.

Please view the attached competition information document and application form and share this with your students. Students can either enter as part of a class or as an individual entry, and group entries are permitted.

There is a bit of an issue with the form working on iPads, but the process for submitting entries is explained in the document.

This could be a good activity to do with your class for the remainder of the term as it meets almost all of the Design Technologies outcomes, and several other outcomes from other domains.

Entries close on 18th September, and information on the display of winning projects is coming soon.

I hope you can join me in promoting this Design Challenge to your students.

Please feel free to contact me for further information at:

Seven.Vinton@education.vic.gov.au

Best regards,
Seven Vinton
STEM Specialist
Oberon High School

